

## Bak-Cuming o' the Turnbull Usquebae

The famous Turnbull usquebae (from the Gaelic *uisge beatha* - water of life) more commonly known as whisky is back in production. John Ross Turnbull Irvine has recently taken over and merged the running of his grandfather's (John Fisher Turnbull) business James Turnbull Exports Ltd, proprietors of Turnbull's whisky, with his own export business JR Exports. In doing so, he is able to preserve the Turnbull's brand and continue producing quality blended whiskies from their pull of secret family recipes. Ross is the first grandson to John Fisher Turnbull, TCA Founder.

Ross says that the explanation as to the origin of the Turnbull's blend begins with the story of William Rule...a story we should all already know.

William Rule's descendent, James Turnbull of Rule-water, founded The House of Turnbull in 1855 by establishing a traditional business of wines and spirits in his home town of Hawick. Few good blends of whisky were available at the time and James Turnbull commenced his first experimental blends of whisky among which he perfected a unique blend of fine colour and aroma with a smooth very acceptable flavour. This blend was the forerunner of today's TURNBULL'S Superior Scotch Whisky, the formula for which is a closely guarded secret.



"The Store" – Fredrick William Barrie Turnbull, John's father, siphoning whisky from a cask before the process of blending in the cellar of 51 High Street Hawick, circa 1940.

Ross, representing the sixth generation of whisky blenders within the Turnbull tradition, says, "Drawing from over a hundred and fifty years experience in blending whisky, I am confident the eight year old celebrated blend within the bottle bearing our crest is one of the

choicest whiskies to have been produced by TURNBULL'S." Established in 1855, James Turnbull was a small family grocer, wine and spirit merchant based in Hawick. The family run business continued to grow and expand over four generations



Myra Turnbull and grandson John Ross Turnbull Irvine proudly display a bottle of Turnbull whisky, carrying on the family tradition.

until more than a hundred years later it was incorporated by the late John Fisher Turnbull. At this point, the company had an extensive product range particularly in relation to whisky blends. Such blends included 'Turnbull's London Blend', 'Club' blend, and the famous 'Teviotdale' blend. The company had also begun to establish strong trading links abroad, with particular interest in tapping into the lucrative spirit markets of Japan and Australia. However in 1982, the company suffered a major set back with the death of John Turnbull.

After John's death, the company was scaled back to the point where it continued solely in the form of personalized labels. This carried on until the turn of the century when the company was liquidated and the business and its long history of whisky blending  
(continued on page 3)

## From the President

by Wally Turnbull

Those of you who have read my book *Hidden Meanings* know that I love proverbs and adages having collected them most of my life. One of the proverbs from Haiti says “repetition is reproach” meaning that if something must



be repeated that is because one did not listen or react correctly the first time. Frequently that is true but sometimes repetition is good. How many times have you heard or even repeated the story of Noah and the ark? There is even a song about demise of the unicorns because they wouldn't come aboard but that's another story.

At one time or another most of the stories about the history of our clan have been published here in the pages of the Bullseye. Yet many of us have forgotten details and others of us were not members to receive the Bullseye when many of those stories were first published.

I have asked the Editor of the Bullseye to repeat the most important and interesting stories from the past, adding additional information whenever possible. This edition includes a fun article by Peter Tonge from the January 1986 Bullseye about the Turnbull pear. Did you know that there was a Turnbull pear? I didn't but now I want to taste one.

Other stories are more important and may be better known but still bear repeating both for our newer members and as reminders. For example, take the very first Turnbull story of William Rule turning the bull and saving the life of King Robert the Bruce. What details do we know? What information such as the type of bull can be filled in from history? What indication do we have that this story is true? Who was Bishop William Turnbull Lord Privy Seal of Scotland? Furthermore, what in the world is a Lord Privy Seal? Keep reading the Bullseye for additional information about these and other *Stories From the Past*.

### BULLSEYE - A Turnbull Clan Publication

The *Bullseye* is a publication of Turnbull Clan Association (TCA). The *Bullseye* is published 12 times a year at: 5216 Tahoe Dr. Durham, NC 27713 U.S.A. [www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com)  
Betty Turnbull, Editor • Janet Turnbull Schwierking, Associate Editor  
Kim Trimble, Contributing Writer – Dawn Day, Contributing Writer  
For all inquiries please contact [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com).

### Turnbull Clan Association

**Officers:** Wally Turnbull, President • Brian Turnbull, Vice-President  
Janet Turnbull Schwierking, Secretary • William Trimble, Treasurer  
**Trustees:** Keith Turnbull, Lee Turnbull, Corey Turnbull, Kim Trimble, Sarah Turnbull Snow, Dana Hume Turnbull Hoyer, George B. Turnbull, Brian P. Turnbull, Mark A. Turnbull, Sandy Turnbull  
**Founders:** John Turnbull, Scotland • Dorothy Berk, USA

## Meet the Member

*Editor's note: In honor of Valentine's Day, Adriana shares her Turnbull connection with us in a love story on page 6. Be sure to read this fun account of how the Turnbolls ended up in Mexico!*

Adriana Rosado was born and raised in Mexico. She graduated with honors from the University of Houston with a major in French. She also studied and lived in England and France. She was elected to Phi Sigma Iota (the international foreign language society), Pi Delta Phi (French honor society) and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish honor society). Adriana is founder and vice president of Adriana Rosado & Bonewitz, Inc, an intercultural communications company.



*Wearing her Turnbull colors, Adriana holds an old parchment from the Mexican Turnbolls depicting their family crest.*

Adriana began her multicultural career at a young age in Mexico when her family hosted an international student. Prior to founding her own company in 1992, she was employed in the US in the Modern Languages department of Texas A&M, with a subsidiary of a Venezuelan oil company, and as a correspondent with responsibility for several Latin American countries, and for a major US healthcare company. She also served as assistant to the vice president and chair of the Committee for Research and Exploration of the National Geographic Society. Among her awards, Adriana received the 2003 Woman of Achievement Award for outstanding excellence as an entrepreneur from the YWCA of Lake County.

Adriana lives in Libertyville, IL with her husband, Derick Bonewitz.





John F. Turnbull in the 51 High Street family store.

(continued from page 1) was almost lost forever as Myra Turnbull, widow to the late John Turnbull, no longer had the time or energy to commit to such a specialized service.

It was at this point that Ross stepped in and offered to take on the challenge of reinstating and further developing what was once a successful and diverse business of the highest repute. Ross promises, "At JR Exports we aim to provide a personal service of the highest quality and to promote the enjoyment of quality blends of one of Scotland's best loved and most famous products." Ross can be contacted through email at [jrexports@btinternet.com](mailto:jrexports@btinternet.com). or:

Turnbull's Whisky  
JR Exports  
12/1 Meadow Place  
Edinburgh, Scotland, EH9 1JZ  
Tel:0044-(0)131-221-1145  
Fax:0044-(0)131-659-7620



12/1 Meadow Place Phone: +44 (0)131 221 1145  
Edinburgh Fax: +44 (0)131 659 7620  
Scotland EH9 1JZ E-mail: [jrexports@btinternet.com](mailto:jrexports@btinternet.com)

AGM 2007 trip members will have the opportunity to meet Ross at the AGM banquet. And who knows, perhaps he will even share a dram.



One of the original Turnbull Whisky labels.



John Ross's new Turnbull Whiskey label for the Superior Blend.

**IMPORTANT: TCA is going places – Don't get left behind!** Don't let this be your last Bullseye. If you haven't renewed your 2007 membership now is the time to do so. Renew online at [www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com), enter the site and following the instructions in the yellow box. Renew by check made out to Turnbull Clan Association and mail to Janet Schwierking, 2020 Schuettig Rd., Poteet, TX 78065-4120. Membership is \$20.00 for the primary member and \$10.00 for spouse and students.

## Stories From the Past...

# Turnbull Giant Acts Like Apple But It's A True Pear At Harvest

This article first appeared in 1986, Bullseye, volume 7, number 1 Wymouth, Mass. – by Peter Tonge

If it hadn't been for Lois Turnbull's concern for her horses, it's quite possible that one of the world's most outstanding new pear varieties wouldn't be available to the public.

The pear – Turnbull Giant, as it is appropriately termed – has it over existing varieties in so many ways that it has been awarded US patent No. 4616. The pear has exceptional vigor, early maturity, disease resistance and 2-in-1 crop.

Midway through the season, pears can be harvested when they are just as sweet, juicy and crisp as any apple; at season's end, they are sweet and soft in the conventional pear manner. In addition, the tree has a unique way of getting around the problem of late-season frosts.

It almost sounds too good to be true, but I am assured it is not. Moreover, I can testify from first-hand experience that the distinct apple and pear stages of the fruit do exist and that the delicious flavor is in no way exaggerated. I enjoyed eating the fruit so much that I plan to grow my own in the future.

A fruit tree with so many advantages over its competition suggests that it is the product of decades of patient research by geneticists. Well, it was nothing of the sort. It was, in fact, a sport thrown up by nature right alongside the paddock where Mrs. Turnbull threw kitchen scraps over the fence as a treat for the family's horses. It is presumed that she had been working with pears on one occasion and that a single seed, with all of the right genetic programming, was trodden into the soil by a hoof.

There is precedent in fruit-growing history for this sort of thing. The Granny Smith apple, the premier apple of Southern Hemisphere countries and now being offered in the United States, as well, originated as a sport growing alongside a compost heap in an Australian backyard many years ago.

Ken and Lois Turnbull farm 160 acres near Depew, Oklahoma and grow all types of fruit and nut trees. They quickly recognized the considerable vigor of the young seedling but were not sure whether it was an apple or a pear.

When it began fruiting, it still fooled them for awhile. The fruit looked more like an apple than a pear, but it tasted all pear once it was fully ripe. They were also impressed by the size of the fruit. Individual specimens would weigh as much as three pounds while one-pounders were common.

Once the fruit began producing, the Turnbull's paid scant attention to their Bartlett pear.



*The fruit of the Turnbull pear looks like an apple but is a true pear.*

They didn't need to. The seedling, now a large tree, was supplying all their pear needs and more. Friends and neighbors were so impressed with the fruit that eventually the Turnbolls wrote to Dan Hybskman, manager of Henry Field's Nursery, Shenandoah, Iowa.

"We've got a pear like no other here," they said. Hybskman was intrigued and went to look. It was, indeed a pear (leaf and bark specimens told him that), but the fruit was almost as round as an apple, although much larger. The creamy white flesh of the tree was often almost seedless as well, a factor that might account for the fruit size (all of the energy going into the fruit and very little into making seeds).

Cuttings were taken and young trees started in the Henry Field test orchards. Long after the growers at Field's were convinced of the pear's superiority based on size, taste and vigor, a nurseryman cut into a still-green fruit to evaluate the flesh. When he chewed it, he was surprised to find the flesh juicy and with the taste and texture of an apple.

Repeated tests showed that all of the large, but still hard pears tasted just as good. The 2-in-1 characteristics of the pear had been discovered.

The tree also is disease-resistant and tolerant of heat, drought and cold. Test trees have grown well as far north as the middle of Minnesota. There is yet another advantage that Turnbull quickly noticed. When a late frost kills off the first blossoms, "the tree just seems to bloom again until it sets fruit," he says.

Mrs. Turnbull said the ripe pears can be canned, eaten fresh and made in sauces, while the green pears can be used "just like apples" in pies, cobblers, Waldorf salad and other apple recipes. (*Mt. Prospect Herald, November 12, 1981*)



**UPCOMING GAMES & EVENTS**

**USA Games – Attend one in your area! \*\* Look for the Turnbull Tent**

**February 3,** Sarasota Highland Games, Sarasota, FL

**February 17-18,** Gulf Coast Highland Games, Palmetto, FL

**February 25,** NE FL Scottish Highland Games, Clay County, FL

**\*\*\*February 24-25,** Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games, Mesa, AZ

**Canada, Australia and New Zealand**

**Attend one in your area!**

**February 7,** Berwick Highland Gathering, Victoria, Australia

**February 10,** Paeroa Highland Games, Paeroa, NZ

**February 17-19,** Winnipeg Scottish Festival, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

**February 18,** Mt Barker Caledonian Society Games, West Australia

**Turnbull Tent Hosts – Information Needed!**

“..one of the purposes of having a tent at the Games – to recruit new members and to pass along the word that our Clan is... active.” This statement by Dorothy Turnbull Berk (see story to the right) in 1981 at the second Highland game to host a Turnbull tent is as true today as ever.

As TCA strives to encourage and increase the number of games that include a Turnbull tent, the officers are requesting help from current tent hosts. They are asking anyone who currently hosts or has hosted a Turnbull Tent to provide information that will enable them to help and encourage future hosts. TCA recognizes that all tent hosts serve as volunteers and the materials you use are your personal property. We ask you to share this information solely for reference in assisting new tent hosts to have a better idea of what is needed and the approximate cost.

If you have ever been a tent host would you please take a few minutes and send the following information to Kim Trimble the TCA Tent Host Coordinator.

1. What initial materials did you use for your display?
2. What other items have you added to your display?
3. What books or literature have you found interesting to Turnbells who visit your tent?
4. What items/books have you found to be the most eye-catching and interesting to all passers by?
5. What are some good sources and approximate cost of these various materials?
6. In addition to the cost of the tent and registration, what other costs are involved in hosting a tent?
7. What additional information and suggestions can you offer concerning tent content and displays?

Please send this information to Kim Trimble via email at [kwtrimble@yahoo.com](mailto:kwtrimble@yahoo.com) or postal mail to:

Kim Trimble  
Box 2094  
Buckley, WA 98321-2094

Thank you for taking the time to provide this useful information. For those who have never hosted a tent but are interested in this fun activity, please contact Kim for additional information about getting started.

Following is an account of the Orlando Games, 1981, from Dorothy Turnbull Berk. These were the second games hosted as a TCA group, after the founding of the North American branch.

**Orlando Gathering**

Bullseye, 1981, volume 2, number 2

Our Gathering in Orlando was very disappointing. Between the weather and the Bangkok flu it was flop from a membership participation standpoint.

It was so cold that the ice had to be scraped off the car before we left the hotel that morning. Arrived at the field to find our tent, along with others, had been blown down and put up several times the day before. Before the day ended the tent had blown down and been put up about 6 or 7 times. It was so cold and windy, no one was comfortable. We piled on all the sweaters and jackets we were fortunate enough to have with us in the car. We looked like refugees from the local thrift shop.

The Opening Ceremonies this year included the Kirkin O' The Tartan, it was very beautiful and inspiring. Your Clan had a flag for the Parade and it was blessed at the Kirkin, so all was not lost.

We had several membership inquiries and that is one of the purposes of having a tent at the Games – to recruit new members and to pass along the word that our Clan is now active.

John Grason. Turnbull,  
Dennis Turnbull, Denise  
Marie Turnbull, Morris  
Kugler, Emily Ruth  
Putney, Scott Turnbull,  
Hazel Turnbull, Kenneth  
Yeatts Turnbull, Velle  
Turnbull, Carlton James,  
Leslie Turnbull, Margaret  
F. Turnbull, Russell E.  
Trimble, Dolores Forgette,  
Sandra Ellen Olsen,  
Claude Snow, Anna  
Bishop, and Angus  
Jonathan Turnbull



*Happy  
Birthday*



## *The Mexican Connection* *A Love Story Across Cultures*

by Adriana Rosado

The following is summarized and extracted from a handwritten memorandum in a hand-drawn genealogical tree of the Mexican branch of the Turnbull family: "From 1720 to 1920:" Andrew Turnbull, M.D. was founder of the American branch of the family. He studied medicine in Paris where he met the lady who became his wife, a Greek by birth.

She had been educated in Paris and was famous by her great beauty besides being most accomplished and an excellent wife and mother. She was most noticed at court by Queen Charlotte, as she spoke German which few ladies then did...Dr. Turnbull is mentioned by the Abbé Reynal in his "History of the East and West Indies" with encomium as "Le sage Turnbull". About 1754 he emigrated to America, having received a grant from the British Government entitling him to large tracts in Florida where he lived and where most of his family was born. Of his sons-----Elliott Bay came from England to Mexico with a mining company to work mines in the State of Oaxaca and there he met the lady who afterwards became his wife."

My line starts with one of the Turnbolls, who did not go to Oaxaca, but to my home State of Veracruz, where another love story began this way: When my ancestor graduated from the university, his parents wanted to give him a gift. Having studied mining, he asked his parents to send him to Mexico to further his education since there were many silver mines in that country. He traveled all around and spent the night before he was to sail back to Europe at the port of Veracruz, on the East coast of Mexico. It is a warm and humid climate and in the evening he stepped out onto the balcony of his hotel room to enjoy the cooler air. Across the street, the windows were also open and illuminated. He couldn't help but notice a beautiful young lady. He was so taken by her that he did not sail the next day but asked to be introduced to her and her family. That



*"A porcelain doll I commissioned, he is supposed to be a little replica of our warriors."*

introduction led to a romance and when he did sail back, it was to ask permission to marry. His parents were not happy with the idea but agreed as long as he returned when his first child was born. This promise was never fulfilled. He remained in Mexico to his death. And that is how my line began. I am the granddaughter of another beautiful lady of Veracruz, Leonor Turnbull Bouchez. If I write out all my names and surnames I am Leonor Adriana Rosado Muñoz Osorio Turnbull.

## Turnbolls in the News

The reunion of the class of 1928, Grand Blanc, Michigan, was a small but enjoyable one. It was attended by two students, Mary Catherine Turnbull and Irene Perry McAllister. Why only two, because they are the only survivors. Both ladies, now 96, planned this reunion "when we realized we were the only two left," Turnbull said. We said, "We'd better have a reunion. It was kind of a joke."

Turnbull and McAllister had not seen each other since their 25<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion, but had kept in touch through the years by phone and letters. They had a wonderful visit. "It was great," says McAllister, who lives by herself in Byron, MI. The reunion was over lunch at Little Joe's because this restaurant was in business when Turnbull and McAllister were in high school.

The ladies met while in the sixth grade. Several one room school houses in the area were consolidated into the Grand Blanc School District. McAllister says she remembers her impression of Turnbull, saying "she was a nice one." Turnbull says of McAllister, "she was quiet, lovely and a wonderful student."

After high school, McAllister cared for her ailing parents and then married Ford McAllister, a farmer. Though they had no children of their own, they took in foster children over the years. She joined the staff of the Durand Express in 1963, as a reporter. Eventually, she moved to the Argus Press in Owosso, where she still works as a correspondent. She says it gives her something to do.

Turnbull worked at Buick after high school. She was promoted to secretary to the president. When he was named president of General Motors in 1949, Turnbull moved to Detroit and kept this position for 8 more years, until she met and married Robert Turnbull. She says of her husband, he was "the nicest gentleman in the world." He owned an advertising firm in Flint, MI. Though they, too, had no children, they felt as though their nieces and nephews were like children to them.

Turnbull delivered a speech on graduation day, June 14, 1928. She recalls from memory the first line: "Our little boat of 23 members stands at rest tonight at the bending of a stream." When asked if there will be a 79<sup>th</sup> reunion, McAllister didn't hesitate, "Oh, of course!" (Material gathered for this article included information from *The Flint Journal*.)